

Ashley Essay - IUP's Music Education Program

From: "Adam Bukosky" <mr10r@comcast.net>
To: <dreed@pahousegop.com>
Date: 12/10/2006 11:47 AM
Subject: IUP's Music Education Program

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Dear Representative Dave Reed:

As a person studying for the profession of music teaching in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I have strong concerns about the proposed changes to PA Code Title 22, Chapter 49.13(b)(4)(i), and the impact it will have on the content preparation of music teacher certification in our state. The proposal states as follows:

(i) The evaluation by the Department will provide assurance that, on or before January 1, 2010, teacher education programs will require at least 9 credits or 270 hours, or an equivalent combination thereof, regarding accommodations and adaptations for students with disabilities in an inclusive setting. Within the content of these 9 credits or 270 hours, instruction in literacy skills development and cognitive skill development for students with disabilities must be included, as determined by the institution. At least 3 credits or 90 additional hours, or an equivalent combination thereof, must address the instructional needs of English language learners. For purposes of this requirement, 1 credit equals 30 hours of coursework. Applicable hours are limited to a combination of seat hours of classroom instruction, field observation experiences, major research assignments, and development and implementation of lesson plans with accommodations and adaptations for diverse learners in an inclusive setting.

These requirements in the initial certification program will result in the major subject matter of the degree being reduced resulting in less competent teachers for all students who will be unprepared to teach students to accomplish the state standards and the requirements of NCLB. Within the last few years, Indiana University of Pennsylvania has already made significant reductions to the Music Education curriculum. To remove or change any more classes would be detrimental to the integrity of the program.

I recommend no more than 90 hours (equivalent of 3 credits) for "instruction in literacy skills development and cognitive skill development for students with disabilities" be addressed in the initial certification program, and the remaining hours plus the 90 hours for English language learners be requirements for Instructional II certificates.

Sincerely,

Adam Bukosky
Junior Music Education Major
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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